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**LOUISIANA STATE PARKS AND FRIENDS OF PALMETTO
ISLAND STATE PARK REPLACE TRAIL BOARDWALK**

The nature trail boardwalk at Palmetto Island State Park has been replaced, courtesy of a \$20,000 private donation received by the Friends of Palmetto Island State Park, Inc. The boardwalk, leading from the nature center into the nearby palmetto swamp areas, provides a pleasant stroll with benches and educational signage on the native Louisiana Red Iris and Prothonotary Warbler. The boardwalk and accompanying overlook now also bears a plaque in commemoration of Ruth Villien, a local teacher who impacted the lives of many students at Abbeville High School.



The new boardwalk at Palmetto Island State Park, with benches and educational signage, provides a great view of the natural areas of the site.

The project, completed in nine days by Louisiana State Parks maintenance staff from around the state, doubled the number of benches and replaced the 225 feet of walkway and the 30'x30' deck. The TimberTech® composite decking – more resilient to the swamp and humidity than the original materials – and other necessary supplies were purchased by the Friends group, with the donated funds.

The Friends of Palmetto Island State Park, Inc. is a 501c3 organization dedicated to the support of Palmetto Island State Park and its staff, through volunteerism, sponsorships and fundraising events, and activities. More information on the group can be found at www.FriendsofPalmetto.com.

Palmetto Island State Park is located off La. Highway 82 in Vermilion Parish, approximately seven miles south of Abbeville. The 1,299-acre site offers a mixture of swamps and the plentiful foliage for which the site is named. For more information about Palmetto Island State Park, visit www.LaStateParks.com or follow the park on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LaStateParks).

- www.LouisianaTravel.com -